

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 7-11 are active in this application. Claim 1 is amended, Claims 7-11 are added, and Claims 2-6 are indicated as withdrawn in response to a previous restriction requirement.

Amendments to Claim 1 and added Claims 7-11 find support in the application as originally filed, at least in the specification at page 4, paragraph [0010]-[0011], and page 8, paragraph [0021]. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action dated June 16, 2009, the Title and Abstract of the specification were objected to; and Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,839,631 to Tsuji in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,028,626 to Aviv.

Applicant and Applicant's representative gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of an interview with Examiner Salata on August 14, 2009. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and references in the Office Action were discussed. Comments and claim amendments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

The Title of the disclosure is amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amended Title clearly indicates the invention to which the claims are directed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the objection to the title be withdrawn. Furthermore, the Abstract is amended to remove the term "means" as required by the Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the objection to the Abstract also be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tsuji and Aviv.

Claim 1 is directed to an image monitoring apparatus for an elevator. The apparatus includes, in part, image recording means for recording a sequence of images of an interior of a car photographed by a camera, with a delay between the recording of successive images in the sequence of images of the interior of the car. The apparatus also includes means for detecting a violent behavior of a passenger in the car when a moving amount of the passenger exceeds a reference value. The apparatus also includes means for displaying, arranged in the interior of the car, the sequence of images of the interior of the car when the violent behavior of the passenger in the car is detected. The image recording means reduces the delay between the recording of the successive images in the sequence of images of the interior of the car when the violent behavior of the passenger in the car is detected.

As discussed during the interview, Tsuji and Aviv fail to teach or suggest each of the features of any of the independent claims. For example, it is respectfully submitted that Tsuji and Aviv fail to teach or suggest means for displaying, arranged in the interior of the car, a sequence of images of the interior of the car when violent behavior of a passenger in the car is detected.

Tsuji describes a monitor control apparatus that includes a moving object position detection device 2C that monitors the position of an object in an elevator hallway.¹ Further, according to Tsuji, periods of time for which a person stays within predetermined regions of an elevator cage or the hallway are calculated and when the period of time has exceeded a prescribed time, the person being tracked is determined to be behaving strangely and may be about to ambush someone.² Further, Tsuji indicates that a “well known warning device which is disposed in the caretaker’s room may broadcast a warning command signal through a loudspeaker located in the cage or in the hallway.”³ In addition, Tsuji indicates that monitor television sets 1D-4D are disposed in the caretaker’s room so as to display pictures based on

¹ Tsuji at column 5, lines 37-39.

² Tsuji at column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 4.

³ Tsuji at column 4, lines 64-68.

television cameras 1A-4A located in the elevator cage and the elevator hallway.⁴ Thus, Tsuji indicates monitor television sets (e.g., means for displaying) that are arranged in a caretaker's room, and Tsuji fails to teach or suggest any monitor television sets arranged in the interior of a car. According, as discussed during the interview, Tsuji fails to teach or suggest means for displaying, arranged in the interior of the car, the sequence of images of the interior of the car when the violent behavior of the passenger in the car is detected," as recited in independent Claim 1, and as similarly required by independent Claims 8 and 10.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, and 10, and claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Tsuji.

Aviv describes an abnormality detection and surveillance system using security personnel to watch monitors, where one monitor sequentially displays the output images of several cameras.⁵ In addition, Aviv indicates that an alarm bell or a light may be provided and activated by an output signal from a controller 20 to summon a supervisor to immediately view video images showing an apparent crime in progress.⁶ In addition, Aviv indicates that a video signal may be transmitted to a VCR located elsewhere, for example, at a law enforcement facility.⁷ In addition, Aviv indicates that an alarm condition may result in a loudspeaker being activated automatically to play a recorded announcement warning the perpetrator of the seriousness of his actions, and a strong light may be turned on automatically.⁸ Thus, Aviv also fails to teach or suggest displaying the sequence of images of the interior of the car inside the car. Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Aviv also fails to teach or suggest "means for displaying, arranged in the interior of the car, the sequence of images of the interior of the car when the violent behavior of the passenger in the

⁴ Tsuji at column 4, lines 1-5.

⁵ Aviv at column 1, lines 35-43.

⁶ Aviv at column 8, lines 13-18.

⁷ Aviv at column 8, lines 33-37.

⁸ Aviv at column 9, lines 24-33.

car is detected,” as recited in Claim 1, and as similarly required by independent Claims 8 and 10.

Therefore, as discussed during the interview, independent Claims 1, 8, and 10, and claims dependent therefrom, patentably define over Tsuji and Aviv.

Thus, it is respectfully requested the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tsuji and Aviv be withdrawn.

In addition, Claim 9 is added to recite the image monitoring apparatus for an elevator according to Claim 8, wherein the detecting section is further configured to detect the violent behavior of the passenger in the car by comparing only certain regions of each of the successive images in the sequence of images of the interior of the car. Added Claims 7 and 11 include similar features. Applicant respectfully submits that Tsuji and Aviv also fail to teach or suggest the features of added Claims 7, 9, and 11. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted those claims also patentably define over Tsuji and Aviv for that distinct reason in addition to the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 8, and 10, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,

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